(ii) Encouraging farm forestry for supply of raw material to paper and other industry.

(iii) Import of wood chips and pulp has been liberalised.

(iv) Time bound action plans have been formulated for compliance to the prescribed standards for pollution control for all identified polluting categories of industries including paper industry.

(v) Standards for water consumption and waste water discharge have been laid down for pulp and paper units and the cess payable by these units is based upon the compliance of these standards.

Creating an ecological task force of ex-servicemen for Himachal Pradesh

1713. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for creating an Ecological Task Force of ex-servicemen for Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, when and what action has been taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the proposal for creating an Eco-Task Force of ex-servicemen in J&K was received later than from Himachal Pradesh and has already been sanctioned; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A proposal for creating an Ecological Task Force for Himachal Pradesh was received in 1982. Action for establishing the Eco-Task Force in Himachal Pradesh could not be taken due to paucity of funds.

(c) and (d) The Ecological Task Force of Jammu & Kashmir was established as a special case and as a part of the special package of programmes approved for the State in 1987.

Setting up of a Biosphere Resource

1714. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Biosphere Reserve for conservation of biological diversity in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has proposed that the Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Spiti and Kibber-Parang Valley adjoining Ladakh to be designated as a Biosphere Reserve. The proposal has been referred to the National Committee on Biosphere Reserves for advice.

Poaching in Tiger Resort

1715. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one high ranking IAS Officer in Rajasthan was apprehended for Poaching in Tiger Resort;

(b) what action Government propose to take against this officer to set example against poaching; and

(c) whether Government would confiscate all arms within the periphery of tiger resorts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matte pertains to the State Government of Rajasthan which is the disciplinary authority for the said officer.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Central Government.

Ecological Disaster

1716. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Statesman, Delhi dated the 30th April, 1993 under the caption "To the brink of ecological disaster";

(b) whether Government have investigated the causes of deterioration with the objectives of rebuilding and protecting the ecological balances in the area;

(c) whether Government have been earning huge revenue resources from the area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Govind Ballabh Pant Himalayan Institute for Environment and Development is engaged in research and development studies in Himalayan ecology.

(c) Government is not earning huge revenue resources from forests.

(d) Question does not arise.

चिड़ियाघर से पक्षियों और जानवरों का गायब होना

1717. **श्री सोम पाल :**
श्री रामगोपाल यादव :
श्री शारदा महन्तो :

क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 21 अप्रैल, 1993 के राष्ट्रीय सहारा, दिल्ली के पृष्ठ 2 पर "चिड़ियाघर में सैकड़ों पक्षी गायब" शीर्षक से छपे समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो चिड़ियाघर से कौन-कौन से पक्षी और जानवर गायब हैं और कब से ; और

(ग) इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा अभी तक क्या-क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) :

(क) जी हां, सरकार ने रिपोर्ट देखी है।